

HONORING SISTER PEG SPINDLER

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Sister Peg Spindler and to wish her well upon her retirement. For her lifetime of service and her dedication to Sojourner Truth House, Sister Peg is to be highly commended. After more than twenty-four years of service, Sister Peg will be retiring on July 1, 2021, as the executive director of the women's shelter.

Sister Peg found her calling to sisterhood at a young age while growing up in Cedar Lake, Indiana. Upon graduating from Andrean High School in 1966, she became a religious sister and earned her bachelor's degree from Alvernia College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Sister Peg then embarked on her career as an educator, where she taught junior high school students in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. In 1983, after returning home, Sister Peg earned a master's degree from Villanova University and another in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois. Sister Peg later went on to teach eighth graders at Holy Trinity School in Gary, Indiana, for fifteen years.

In November 1997, Sister Peg, along with the support of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, opened the doors to Sojourner Truth House, located in Gary, Indiana. Sojourner Truth House serves homeless, underserved, and at-risk women and their children with the goal of providing them the necessary tools and resources to improve their quality of life.

After retiring, Sister Peg plans to continue advocating for the homeless in our region through the Continuum of Care Network of Northwest Indiana and is hopeful she will be able to launch the first Lake County Homeless Trust Fund. She also plans to visit Catholic parishes throughout the country to advocate on best practices to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and combat the harmful effects of climate change on those most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Sister Peg Spindler for her outstanding service to the women and children who have passed through Sojourner Truth House and to wish her well upon her retirement. For her lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to her community, Sister Peg is worthy of our utmost gratitude and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Heritage Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia as it celebrates its 40 years of Christian service.

In 1981 the Heritage Baptist church was founded in a modest rental facility at Potomac Highschool. While small in numbers, this did

not deter the church from making an impact on the community and spreading the word of God. To date, the Heritage Baptist Church has facilitated over 190 worldwide missions, boasts a congregation of over 500 members, and has planted 6 churches across the nation.

In the last 40 years, the congregation has continued to flourish and grow. What began as a small group in a one-room church has evolved into a 17 acres campus that has touched the lives of and inspired hundreds of individuals.

Today the Heritage Church can reach members of the community through the various programs offered, such as a K4 to a twelfth-grade Christian school, Sunday school bus outreach, the Heritage Institute of Ministry, and sermons in Spanish.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in support of the Heritage Baptist Church 40th anniversary. May God bless the Heritage Baptist Church and its community and may He continue to work through it to continue to spread the Word of God.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER JESSE SMILEY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Jesse Smiley for his 15 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Smiley has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. CHARLOTTE HODDER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Charlotte Hodder on her retirement from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, where she was hired as a nurse consultant on February 5, 1995.

Mrs. Hodder is a veteran of the United States Army, where she was a Specialist-E-4

from August 25, 1975 to January 22, 1980. Mrs. Hodder was in the Women's Army Corps, which in 1978 merged into the U.S. Army. They were the first female soldiers that had to qualify with a rifle. During basic training, she was assigned as a permanent Squad Leader. In this role, she was responsible for supervising, motivating and maintaining accountability and ensuring soldier readiness.

Mrs. Hodder was trained in several areas, including Quartermaster or Warehouse Specialist, Audio Visual Specialist and Office Management Specialist. As a Quartermaster Specialist, she was trained to track, pack, and ship items that others needed. As an Audio-Visual Specialist, she was trained to track, pack, ship, and prepare training material that military units needed to train their personnel. She also maintained the equipment needed to show the training material on. As an Office Management Specialist, she was assigned overseas for two years. During these two years, she handled the Official Government Mail and encrypted messages for her base. She wrote the Operations Manual for how to handle the classified mail, encrypted messages, and personnel management. During her time as an Office Management Specialist, she was assigned to work in the Base Commander's building for most of her tour of duty. In addition, she was assigned as the main company clerk for the Supply Company for a few weeks. This involved ensuring that the company correspondence and any personnel concerns were continually being processed. The opportunity to spend two years overseas, enhanced her ability to adapt to adverse situations, communicate with others in an effective manner, and to be continually aware of cultural differences. She received an Army Commendation Medal for her exceptional contribution to their Mission.

During her time in the Military, she was selected as Soldier of the Month in Fort Stewart, GA, and Camp Carroll, South Korea. This honor was received after stiff competition in front of Senior Military Enlisted soldiers. The competition involves presenting oneself in proper Military Uniform, answering several questions regarding the Military and current events. Her competition for Soldier of the Month at Ft. Stewart, GA consisted of Male Infantry Soldiers who had training for combat roles. The General, as the most senior management, of this base were quite impressed when she was selected.

"May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and, Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

HONORING DR. KEN SHAW

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to formally recognize Dr. Ken Shaw, who spent the last seven years as an outstanding President of Southwestern Adventist University.

As President, he remained committed to the school's mission of inspiring knowledge, faith, and service to all the students all while staying committed to a Christ-centered education.